

M-12-42-15

1875-1895

Thomas and Elbert Johnson Houses (Sites)
Big Woods Community
Private

A typical one and a half story log dwelling stood on this site as the home of a black landowning family in the last quarter of the 19th century. Near to it stood the larger frame house of their son, whose house was more in keeping with house styles and methods of construction of the turn of the century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Elbert and Thomas Johnson Family Houses (Sites)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER West side of Route 109

CITY, TOWN

Beallsville

☒ VICINITY OF

Big Woods

8

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Berley R. and Delores Pruitt

Telephone #: 301-972-8832

STREET & NUMBER

Route 109

CITY, TOWN

Beallsville

☐ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code
Maryland 20704**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 4750

Folio #: 721

STREET & NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE
Maryland 20850**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS
☐ FAIR ☒ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The oral informant from Big Woods, Florence Hallman, recalls that two houses stood on this property, one belonged to the father, Thomas Johnson, and the other to his son, Elbert. She remembers that the log house was one and a half stories in height with two rooms down and two up. There were no additions to the rectangular block. It was heated by wood burning stoves. The windows held 6 x 6 panes in double hung sashes. The house had no cellar. Near the house was a meat house, hen house, and garden. There was also a hog pen. The family did not have a cow. Thomas's son, Elbert, built a frame house in a style in keeping with the frame dwellings of the turn of the century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:12-42-15

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Black History Local History	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1875-1895 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Florence Hallman recalls that these houses were built before her time -- that is, at least before the turn of the 20th century. Research of deeds has not been able to link the present-day deed with the ones preceding since there was no "being clause." Elbert Johnson was not listed in the grantee/grantor index, and there were too many "Thomas Johnsons" listed as grantees for the research assistant to research in the time available. Thus the date of purchase by the Johnson family is not known at this point, and the date of construction of the houses can only be estimated as the last quarter of the 19th century, before the youth of Florence Hallman.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records of Montgomery County, County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.
Deed: 4750/721.

Oral interview with Florence Hallman, July-August 1978 (not taped) by
George McDaniel, Big Woods Community.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George McDaniel, Surveyor Karen Sewell, Tamar Hoewing, Wesley Stubbs

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

7/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement
of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438